DC
4 PART MINI-SERIES
AMBUSH BUG
2
75¢
CAN. 95¢
U.K. 35p
JULY 85
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GIFFEN/OKSNER
BAAAH HAHA HAHAHA!
QUANTIS...
THE KOALA WHO WALKS LIKE A MAN!

THANKS TO

AMAZING HEROES

BEST 10 BOOKS OF 1984*

1. **SWAMP THING**†
2. JON SABLE
3. AMERICAN FLAGG
4. **TEEN TITANS**†
5. FANTASTIC FOUR
6. X-MEN
7. **BLUE DEVIL**†
8. **ATARI**†† **FORCE**
9. DR. STRANGE
10. POWER PACK

*BEST BOOKS OF 1984, PER R. A. JONES, AMAZING HEROES # 63

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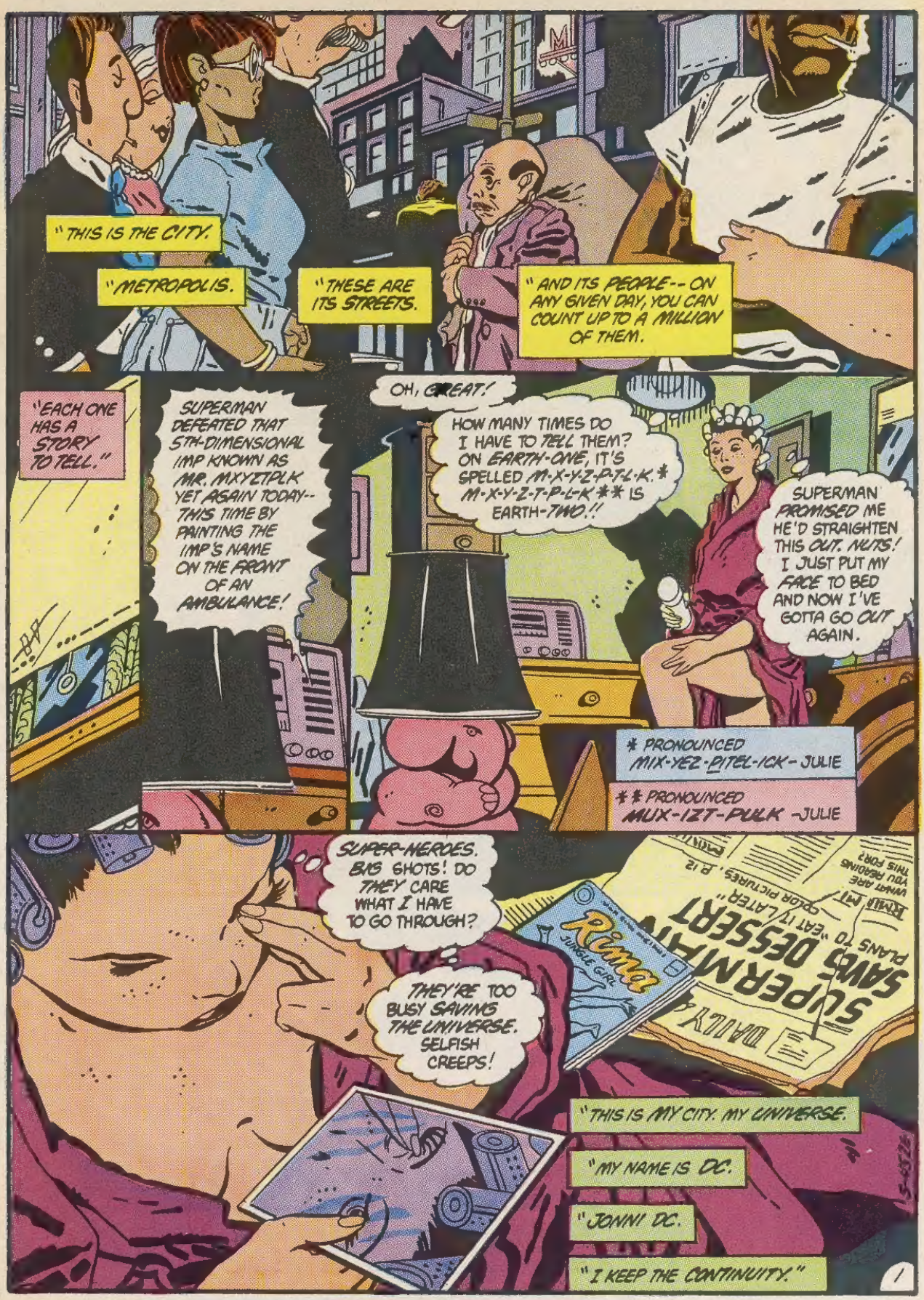
"THIS IS THE CITY.
"METROPOLIS.
"THESE ARE ITS STREETS.
"AND ITS PEOPLE -- ON ANY GIVEN DAY, YOU CAN COUNT UP TO A MILLION OF THEM.
"EACH ONE HAS A STORY TO TELL."
SUPERMAN DEFEATED THAT 5TH-DIMENSIONAL IMP KNOWN AS MR. MXYZTPLK YET AGAIN TODAY -- THIS TIME BY PAINTING THE IMP'S NAME ON THE FRONT OF AN AMBULANCE!
OH, GREAT!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL THEM? ON EARTH-ONE, IT'S SPELLED M-X-Y-Z-P-T-L-K.* M-X-Y-Z-T-P-L-K** IS EARTH-TWO!!
SUPERMAN PROMISED ME HE'D STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT. NUTS! I JUST PUT MY FACE TO BED AND NOW I'VE GOTTA GO OUT AGAIN.
* PRONOUNCED MIX-YEZ-PITEL-ICK - JULIE
** PRONOUNCED MUX-IZT-PULK -JULIE
SUPER-HEROES. BIG SHOTS! DO THEY CARE WHAT I HAVE TO GO THROUGH?
THEY'RE TOO BUSY SAVING THE UNIVERSE. SELFISH CREEPS!
DAILY
SUPERMAN SAVES DESSERT
PLANS TO "EAT IT LATER"
COLOR PICTURES, P 12
WHAT ARE YOU READING THIS FOR?
Rima
JUNGLE GIRL
"THIS IS MY CITY. MY UNIVERSE.
"MY NAME IS DC.
"JONN! DC.
"I KEEP THE CONTINUITY."

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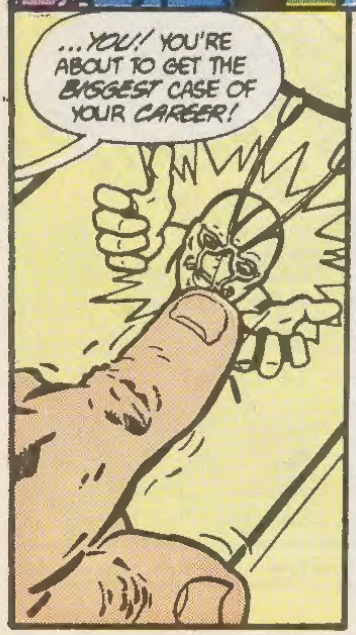
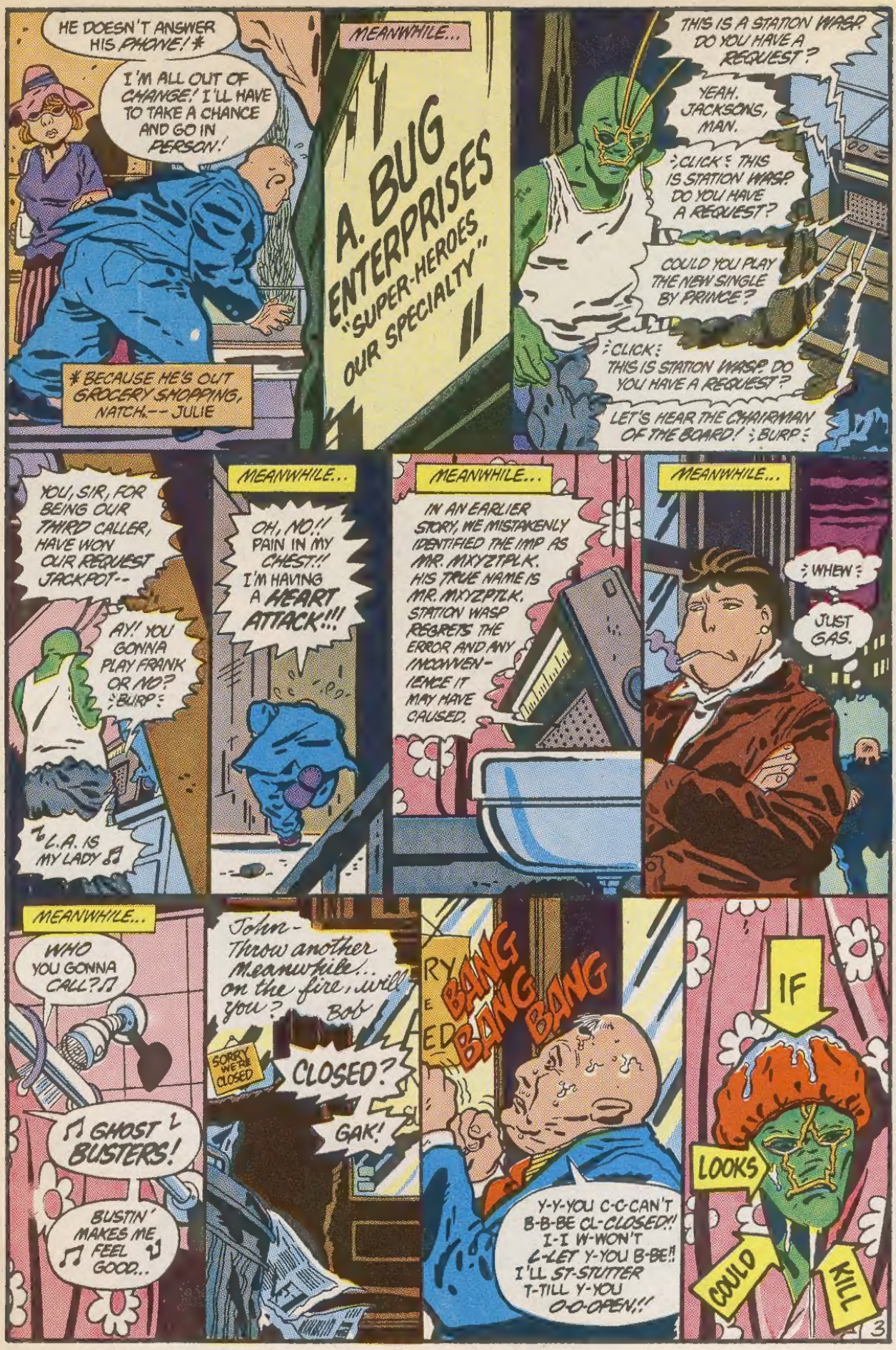


AMBUSH BUG™

CREATED BY KEITH GIFFEN

VERSUS

THE KOALA WHO WALKS LIKE A MAN!! (AWWW, CUTE)

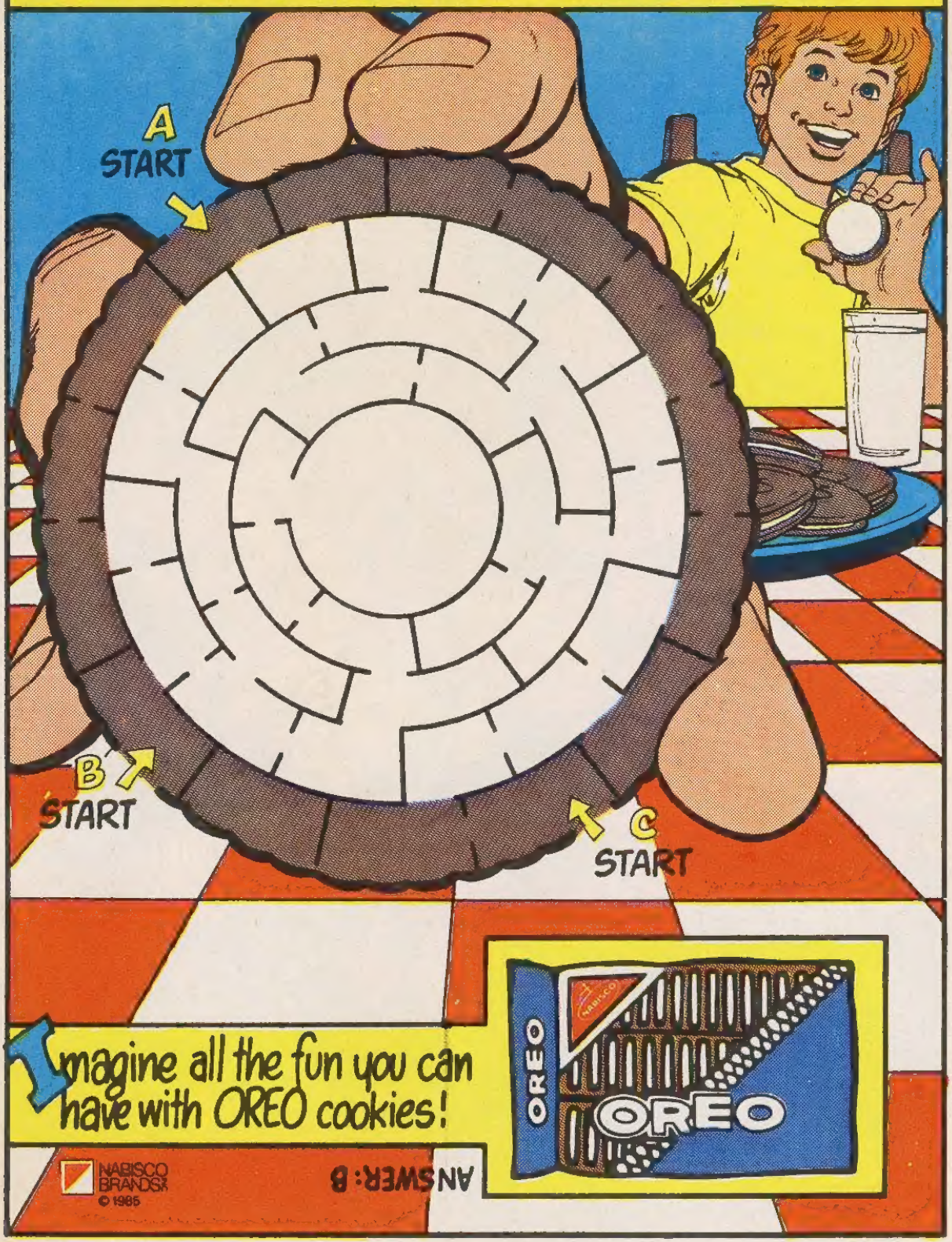

HE DOESN'T ANSWER HIS PHONE! *
I'M ALL OUT OF CHANGE! I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A CHANCE AND GO IN PERSON!
* BECAUSE HE'S OUT GROCERY SHOPPING, NATCH.-- JULIE
MEANWHILE...
A. BUG ENTERPRISES "SUPER-HEROES OUR SPECIALTY"
THIS IS A STATION WASP. DO YOU HAVE A REQUEST?
YEAH. JACKSONS, MAN.
:CLICK: THIS IS STATION WASP. DO YOU HAVE A REQUEST?
COULD YOU PLAY THE NEW SINGLE BY PRINCE?
:CLICK: THIS IS STATION WASP. DO YOU HAVE A REQUEST?
LET'S HEAR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD! :BURP:
YOU, SIR, FOR BEING OUR THIRD CALLER, HAVE WON OUR REQUEST JACKPOT--
AY! YOU GONNA PLAY FRANK OR NO? :BURP:
♫ L.A. IS MY LADY ♫
MEANWHILE...
OH, NO!! PAIN IN MY CHEST!! I'M HAVING A HEART ATTACK!!!
MEANWHILE...
IN AN EARLIER STORY, WE MISTAKENLY IDENTIFIED THE IMP AS MR. MXYZTPLK. HIS TRUE NAME IS MR. MXYZPTLK. STATION WASP REGRETS THE ERROR AND ANY INCONVENIENCE IT MAY HAVE CAUSED.
MEANWHILE...
:WHEW:
JUST GAS.
MEANWHILE...
WHO YOU GONNA CALL? ♫
♫ GHOST BUSTERS! ♫
BUSTIN' MAKES ME FEEL GOOD...
John- Throw another Meanwhile... on the fire, will you? Bob
SORRY WE'RE CLOSED
CLOSED?
GAK!
BANG BANG BANG
Y-Y-YOU C-C-CAN'T B-B-BE CL-CLOSED!! I-I W-WON'T L-LET Y-YOU B-BE!! I'LL ST-STUTTER T-TILL Y-YOU O-O-OPEN!!
IF
LOOKS
COULD
KILL
3

SOMEBODY...
IS
GOING
TO
DIE!
YOU ARE FAT, YOU'RE BALD, AND YOUR EARS STICK OUT!!
UH...
I'M LOOKING FOR A...
...DETECTIVE?
ON THE OTHER HAND, I'VE ALWAYS LIKED THE FAT, BALD, CHIMP TYPE!
STEP INTO MY OFFICE, MISTER--?
ORTON.
NED ORTON.
TAKE THE LOAD OFF YOUR FEET, NED. I'LL POP OPEN A COUPLE BREWS.
I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. IF I DRINK MORE THAN ONE OF THESE, I TURN INTO A RAVING MANIAC.
SO WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
YOU'D BETTER SIT DOWN, MR. BUG!
"THIS IS AN UGLY STORY ABOUT AN UGLY PLACE. PADDYWAC! THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENTS OF DISTRIBUTION, YOUTH, WELFARE, AGRICULTURE, AND CUTENESS ARE ALL HOUSED THERE.
PADDYWAC
"I WORK IN CUTENESS, AS THE JANITOR.
"THEY DO RESEARCH, WORKING UNDER THE HEAD SCIENTIST DR. QUENTIN QUANTIS.
"I DIDN'T KNOW THE EXACT NATURE OF THEIR WORK, AT FIRST.
PRINCE
MUP
INSIDE STUFF
THE E.T. PHENOMENON
"PHONES HOME"
CUTENESS
EYES ONLY
"BUT I HAD A DARN GOOD IDEA!
ENOKS
4

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

WHICH WAY?

TO THE CREAMY CENTER
OF A CRUNCHY OREO® CHOCOLATE SANDWICH COOKIE.



Imagine all the fun you can have with OREO cookies!

ANSWER: B

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RED TORNADO FINALLY GETS HIMSELF TOGETHER.*
RED TORNADO†
A FOUR-PART MINI-SERIES.
FROM DC COMICS. WHERE LEGENDS LIVE.
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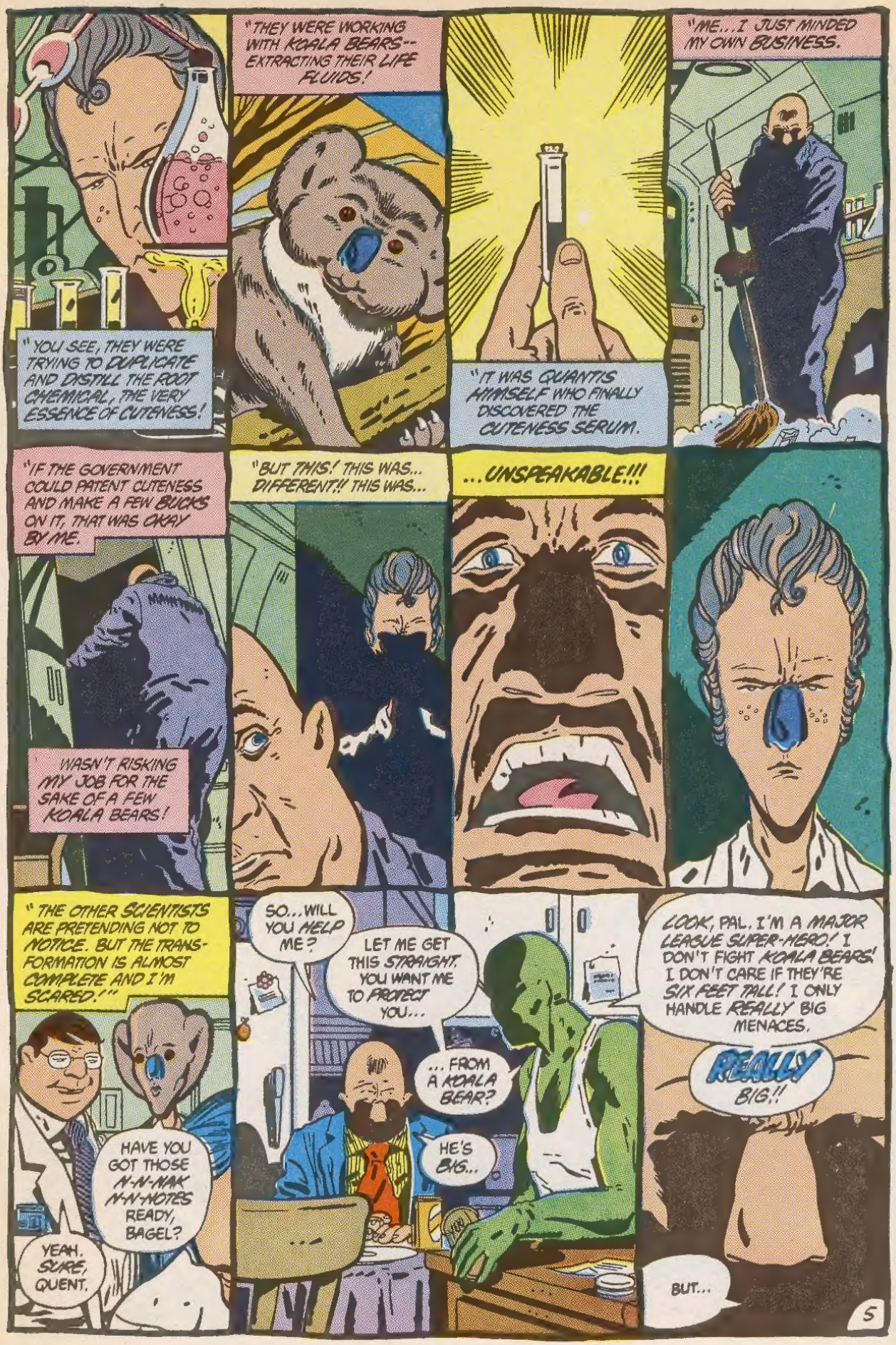
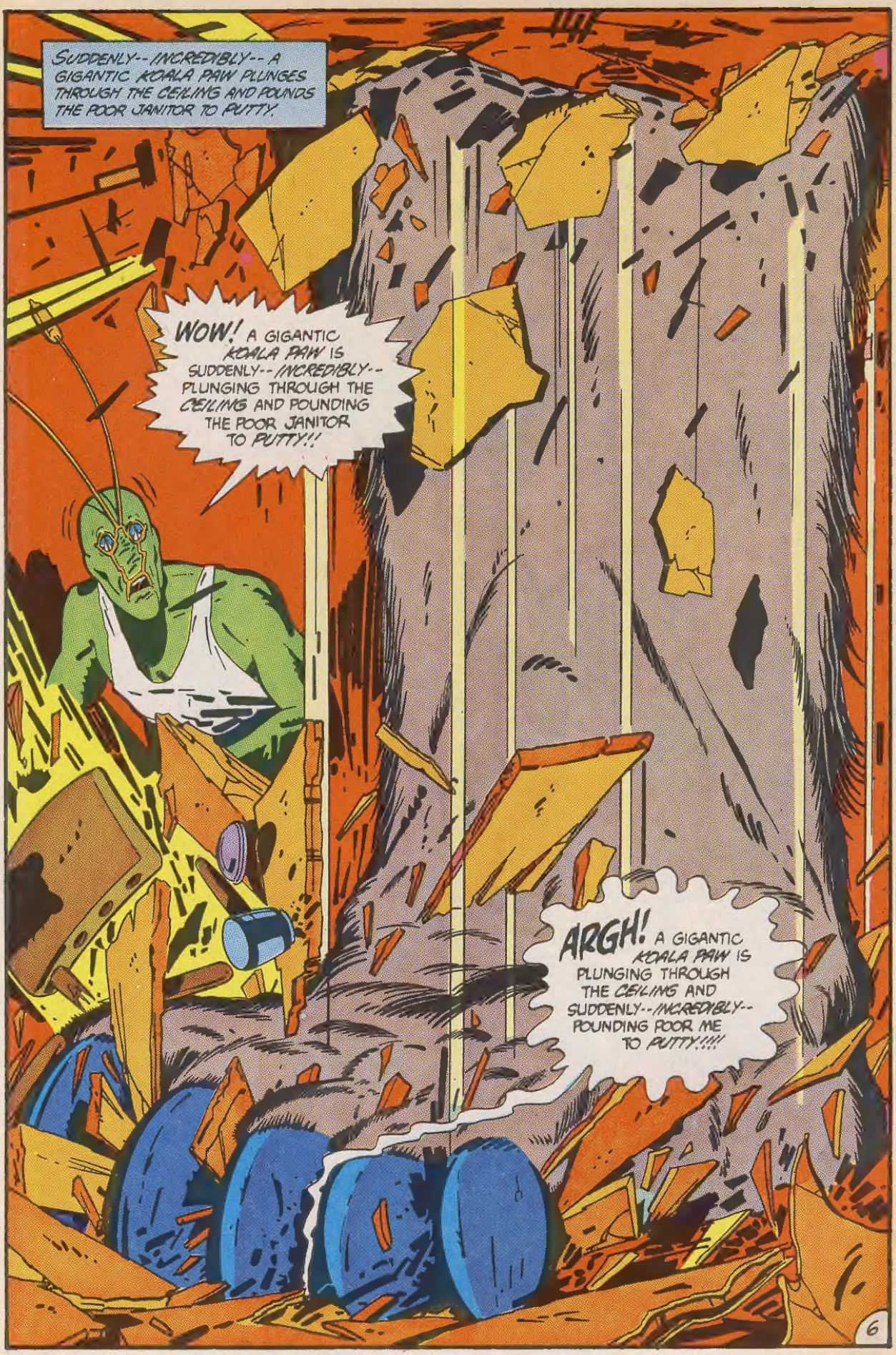
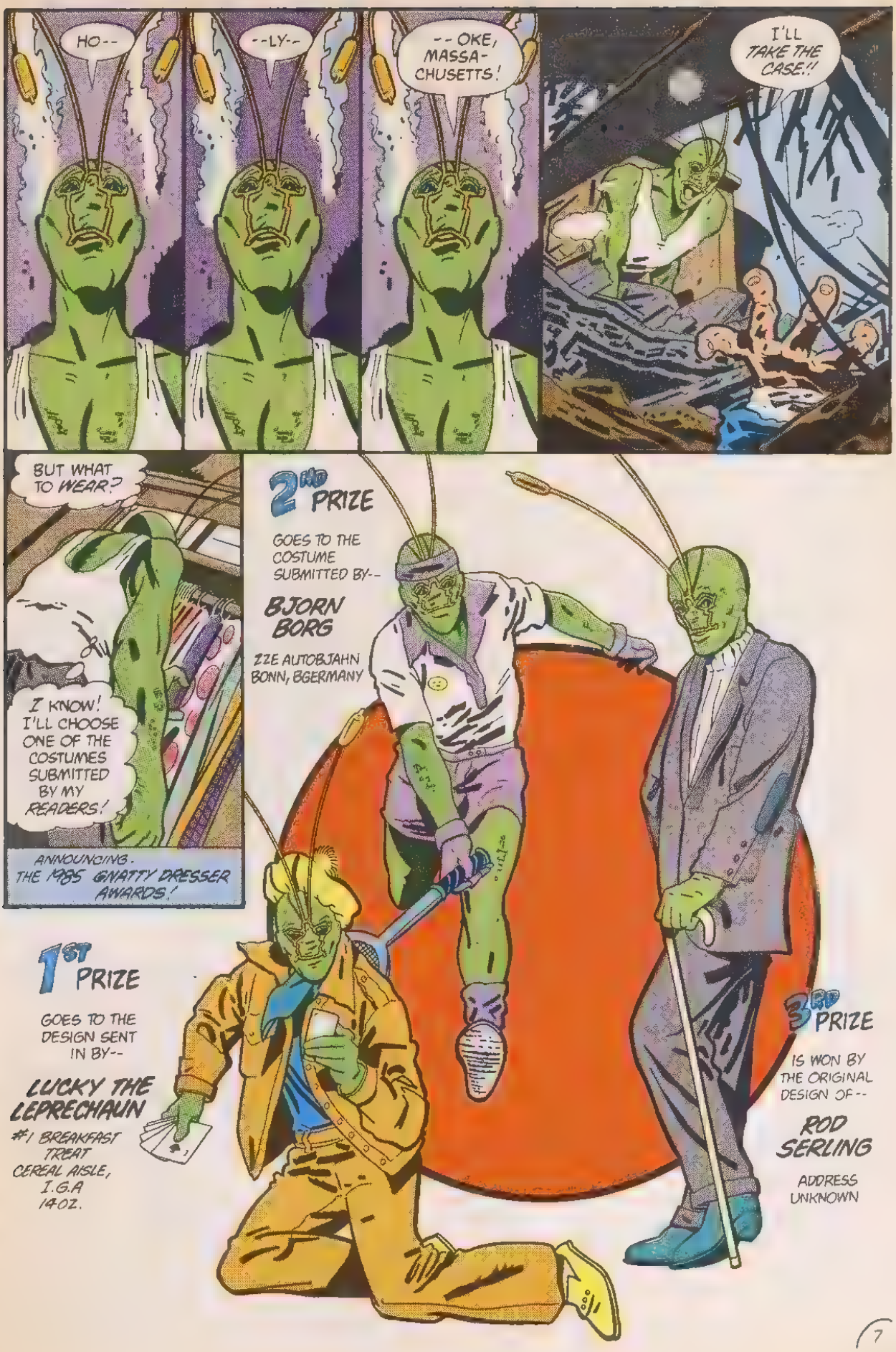

"YOU SEE, THEY WERE TRYING TO DUPLICATE AND DISTILL THE ROOT CHEMICAL, THE VERY ESSENCE OF CUTENESS!
"THEY WERE WORKING WITH KOALA BEARS-- EXTRACTING THEIR LIFE FLUIDS!
"IT WAS QUANTIS HIMSELF WHO FINALLY DISCOVERED THE CUTENESS SERUM.
"ME... I JUST MINDED MY OWN BUSINESS.
"IF THE GOVERNMENT COULD PATENT CUTENESS AND MAKE A FEW BUCKS ON IT, THAT WAS OKAY BY ME.
WASN'T RISKING MY JOB FOR THE SAKE OF A FEW KOALA BEARS!
"BUT THIS! THIS WAS... DIFFERENT!! THIS WAS...
...UNSPEAKABLE!!!
"THE OTHER SCIENTISTS ARE PRETENDING NOT TO NOTICE. BUT THE TRANS-FORMATION IS ALMOST COMPLETE AND I'M SCARED!'"
HAVE YOU GOT THOSE N-N-NAK N-N-NOTES READY, BAGEL?
YEAH, SURE, QUENT.
SO... WILL YOU HELP ME?
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. YOU WANT ME TO PROTECT YOU...
... FROM A KOALA BEAR?
HE'S BIG...
LOOK, PAL. I'M A MAJOR LEAGUE SUPER-HERO! I DON'T FIGHT KOALA BEARS! I DON'T CARE IF THEY'RE SIX FEET TALL! I ONLY HANDLE REALLY BIG MENACES.
REALLY BIG!!
BUT...
5


SUDDENLY--INCREDIBLY--A GIGANTIC KOALA PAW PLUNGES THROUGH THE CEILING AND POUNDS THE POOR JANITOR TO PUTTY.
WOW! A GIGANTIC KOALA PAW IS SUDDENLY--INCREDIBLY--PLUNGING THROUGH THE CEILING AND POUNDING THE POOR JANITOR TO PUTTY!!
ARGH! A GIGANTIC KOALA PAW IS PLUNGING THROUGH THE CEILING AND SUDDENLY--INCREDIBLY--POUNDING POOR ME TO PUTTY!!!!


HO--
--LY--
--OKE, MASSA-CHUSETTS!
I'LL TAKE THE CASE!!
BUT WHAT TO WEAR?
I KNOW! I'LL CHOOSE ONE OF THE COSTUMES SUBMITTED BY MY READERS!
ANNOUNCING. THE 1985 GNATTY DRESSER AWARDS!
2ND PRIZE
GOES TO THE COSTUME SUBMITTED BY--
BJORN BORG
ZZE AUTOBJAHN BONN, BGERMANY
1ST PRIZE
GOES TO THE DESIGN SENT IN BY--
LUCKY THE LEPRECHAUN
#1 BREAKFAST TREAT CEREAL AISLE, I.G.A 14OZ.
3RD PRIZE
IS WON BY THE ORIGINAL DESIGN OF--
ROD SERLING
ADDRESS UNKNOWN

THE AMBUSH BUG GUIDE TO COLLECTING COMICS

Rule No. 1.
After you've read your comic books, *don't throw them away.*
Rule No. 2.
What?!? You haven't *washed your hands?* Get into that *bathroom* and don't *ever* let me catch you touching your comics without washing first! I slave to make you a good storyline and what thanks do I get? *You* don't appreciate it! Where have those hands been?? Do you *hear* me? I'm *talking* to you!!
Rule No. 3.
Count your staples. If there's only one, you've got a problem. Three is weird, but okay. Four or more, seek professional advice.
Rule No. 4.
Always hold your comics with two hands. Never hold a book with only one hand, as this can lead to mutilation and blindness
Rule No. 5.
Bag your comics You may prefer one of the *plastic* bag types—vinyl, PVC, polyethylene, polypropylene, cellophane—that normally hold up to four comics each. I personally prefer a standard-sized brown paper grocery sack. You can usually obtain them free from your mom, and they will each hold up to 277 comics! (One stipulation: brown paper grocery sacks are highly acidic and will probably cause your comic books to become brittle and discolored over a couple of decades. But don't worry, you'll be grown up by then.)
Rule No. 6.
Different comics have different monetary values. For example, the comic book you are holding now is worth, say, a dinner for two at Beefsteak Charlie's. On the other hand, a copy of TEEN TITANS #1 is worth two Cadillac Sevilles and an all-expenses-paid trip for two to Waikiki. SUPERMAN #1 is worth your girlfriend.
Rule No. 7.
A comic book is not a toy. Glad we got *that* straight.
Rule No. 8.
Never, never, never clip coupons out of your comic books. Not even if the coupon says "clip on the dotted line." Not even if it says "ignore Rule No. 8."
Rule No. 9.
Never write your name and address in your comic books. Just your name will do.
Rule No. 10.
Don't rest your comic books on flammable surfaces, such as stove ranges, burning logs barbecue grills or charcoal pits.
Rule No. 11.
Grading your comics: Before assessing the value of a comic book, you must first determine its state of preservation, utilizing the following standardized grading system.
TOTALLY OUTRAGEOUS (TO): A perfect copy, one which has never been read. (That's why we bust our buns on these books, day in and day out. So you can rush them home from the store and *sit* on them for thirty years.)
OUTRAGEOUS! (O!): Almost perfect copy; only the indicia has been read.
LIKE, OUTRAGEOUS (L, O): Slight wear beginning to show; somebody's been perusing the letter column.
TRULY AWESOME (T&A): Read once, all the way through, and then immediately stored away.
AWESOME! (A!): Read *two* times, all the way through, and then immediately stored.
REALLY BITCHIN (R&B): Passed around a large family, but not to the dog.
BITCHIN! (B!): Passed around a large family, and then to the dog.
FOR SURE (FS): Barber shop copy.
GRODY (g): Army surplus.
Rule No. 12.
Don't use Silly Putty to make backwards images of your favorite comic book characters. Are you out of your mind?
Rule No. 13.
Don't take your comic books to bed with you. It's not healthy.
Rule No. 14.
Don't sneeze on your comics. There'll be plenty of time for that later.
Rule No. 15.
Never stack your comics more than 16,000 high.
Rule No. 16.
Now that you've *tried* stacking your comics 16,000 high, *don't do it again!*
Rule No. 17.
In case of fire, your place is with the Collection.
Rule No. 18.
Store your comics in ascending numerical order, alphabetically by title, subdivided—also alphabetically—into companies, keeping a cross-file on 3 x 5 cards. Or just heap 'em in a closet
Rule No. 19.
Have you ever thought of starting an index listing all of the issues that feature work by your favorite artist? Well, forget it.
Rule No. 20.
Your comic book collection is worth a fortune. (Show this rule to your folks.)
Rule No. 21.
Don't buy multiple copies of first issues. It's so predictable.
Rule No. 22.
Have fun. After all, that's what it's all *about.* Which brings us to...
Rule No. 23.
Don't follow rules.
Rule No. 24.
Reread Rule No. 23, fanboy.

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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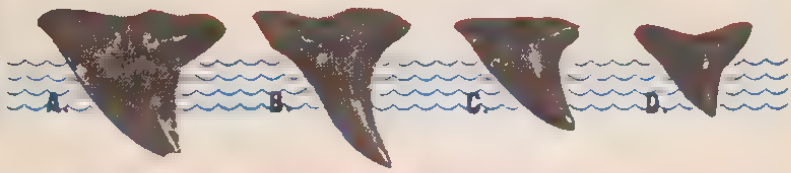

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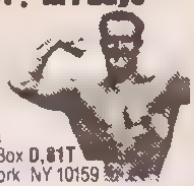

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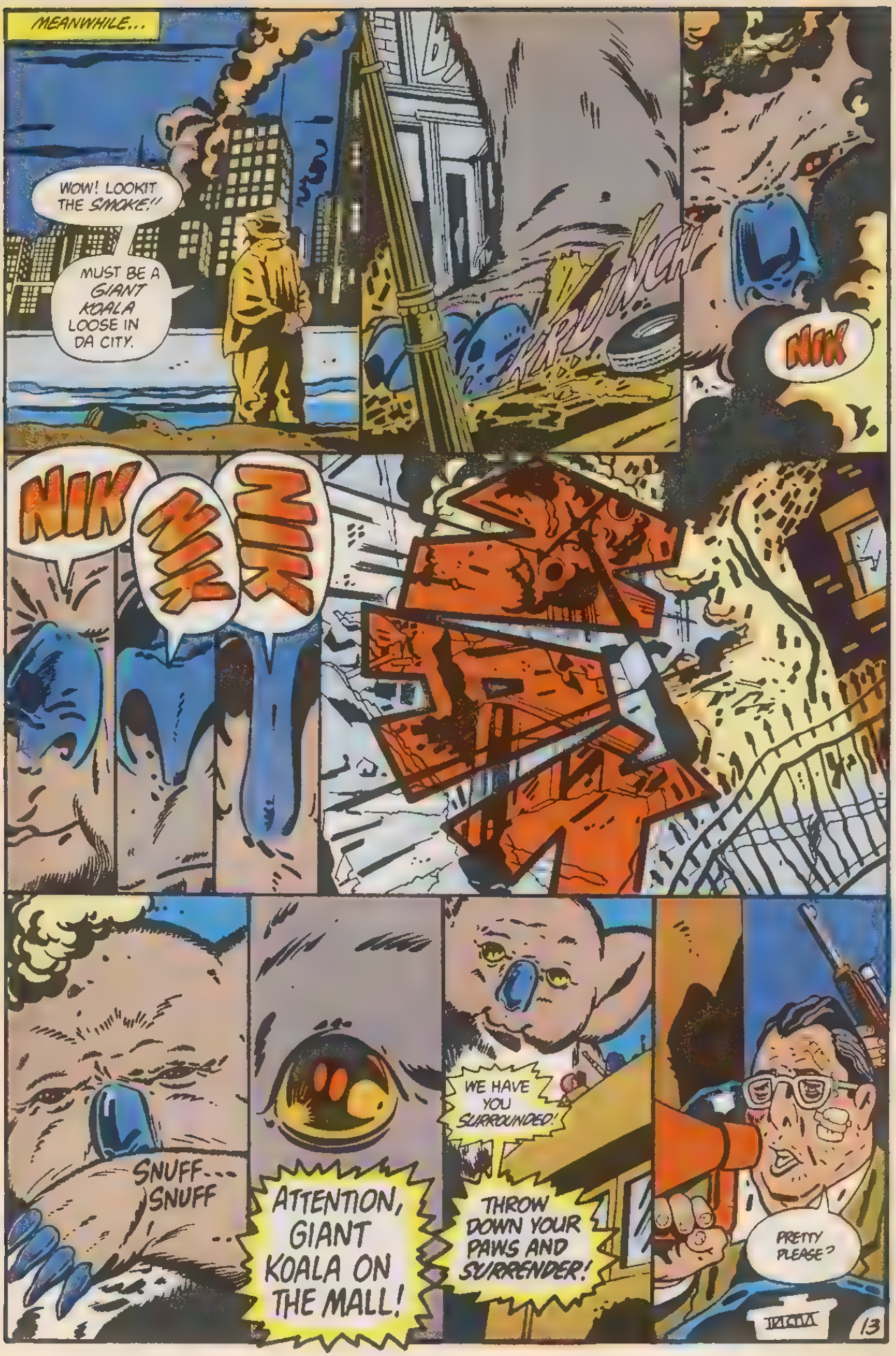
MEANWHILE..
BLAUGH!
OHHH... MY GUT. I JUST CAN'T HANDLE THESE SUPER-SPEED PURSUITS! HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW HE WAS THE FTD FLORIST?
THIS JOB IS KILLING ME!
I'M SICK OF CHECKING FOR A YELLOW OVAL AROUND THE BAT.
I'M SICK OF MEASURING THE ATOM.
I'M SICK OF STORIES TITLED "CRISIS ON EARTHS 1,2,OR 3."
I'M SICK OF BEING ON THE PHONE WITH ROY ALL OF THE TIME!
THOOOM
WHAT'S--
THOOOM
--HAP-PAP-PAP-PEN-NEN-NEN-NING-GING-GING?
THOOOM
THOOOM
THOOOM
THOOOM
LEAPIN' LIZARDS!
9

NIK NAK
AAWWWWW, CUTE!
I'LL BET HE'S ONE OF THOSE LUCAS-SPIELBERG CREATIONS
NO, HE'S NOT BLEEDING
LOOK AT HIS LITTLE BUTTON NOSE
THOSE EARS! ADORABLE
LOOK AT HIS LITTLE ARMS!
LOOK HOW HE HOLDS THEM LIKE A LITTLE MAN!
R.I.P.'S
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT-- DO IT RIGHT
MAX
MOM, CAN I HAVE ONE?
ASK YOUR FATHER!
10

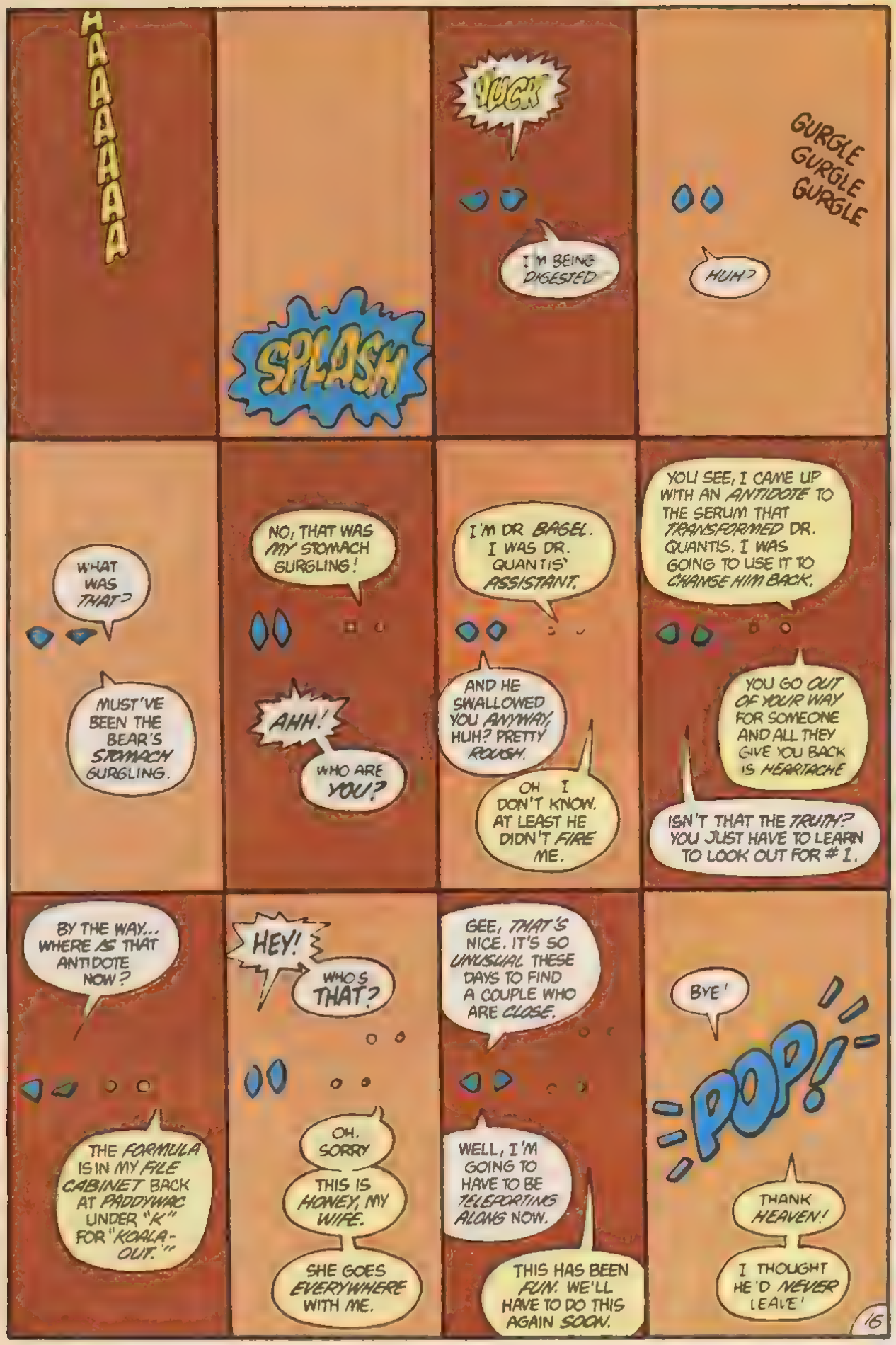
MEANWHILE...
THIS LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER JOB FOR--
--JONNI DC--
--CONTINUITY COP!!!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, PAL!
I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU!
IF YOU ARE FROM EARTH-ONE, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO EARTH-TWO OR FOUGHT ANY HEROES WHO WERE, THEMSELVES, FROM EARTH-TWO?
ARE YOU FROM EARTH-ONE?
DO YOU KNOW PETE ROSS?
DO YOU HAVE AN ORIGIN?
A SECRET IDENTITY?
IF SO, I NEED THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL CHARACTERS WHO KNOW YOUR SECRET IDENTITY.
SNORT
UGH!!!
YIKE!
BING!
YOWP!
BING
EEEK!
BING
BING
WOO HOO HOO HOO!
BIN
BING
BING
HELLO. THIS IS WEDGE FAIRWAY, COMING TO YOU LIVE FROM 54TH AND NINTH...

WE'RE WATCHING A NEW COMPETITOR ON THE CIRCUIT, A GOLFER WHO HAS COME OUT OF NOWHERE TO GRAB THE ATTENTION OF THE CROWD HERE TODAY.
THE GIANT KOALA OPENED THE FIRST ROUND OF THIS TOURNAMENT WITH A 71, MOVED INTO THE LEAD WITH A 68 ON THE SECOND ROUND, AND HAS STAYED SOLIDLY IN FRONT THE REST OF THE WAY.
HERE, ON THE EIGHTEENTH HOLE, HE CLEARLY NEEDS TO MAKE THIS PUTT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN HIS LEAD.
ON THIS 415-YARD PAR 4 HOLE, THE GIANT KOALA SPLIT THE FAIRWAY OFF THE TEE, AND THEN PLAYED A LOW LEFT-TO-RIGHT FAIRWAY-WOOD TWENTY FEET PAST THE PIN. IF HE SINKS THIS PUTT, HE'LL MAKE HIS PAR.
AND AN EXTRA-ORDINARY PUTTER HE IS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! YET THE EXQUISITE HAND ACTION WHICH HAS HELPED THE GIANT KOALA TO BIRDIE TEN OF THE FIRST THIRTEEN HOLES WAS UNDER-CUT TODAY BY ERRATIC IRON PLAY IN THE LAST HALF OF THE SECOND NINE.
WAIT! HE SEEMS TO HAVE LINED UP THE PUTT--
UH, EXCUSE ME. I'M JULIUS SCHWARTZ-- THE EDITOR OF THIS BOOK. CAN I JUST OFFER A LITTLE INPUT HERE?
KEITH? BOB? YOU GUYS WANT TO GET PAID???
GET BACK TO THE STORY!


MEANWHILE...
WOW! LOOKIT THE SMOKE!!
MUST BE A GIANT KOALA LOOSE IN DA CITY.
NIK
NIK
NIK
NIK
SNUFF... SNUFF
ATTENTION, GIANT KOALA ON THE MALL!
WE HAVE YOU SURROUNDED!
THROW DOWN YOUR PAWS AND SURRENDER!
PRETTY PLEASE?
13

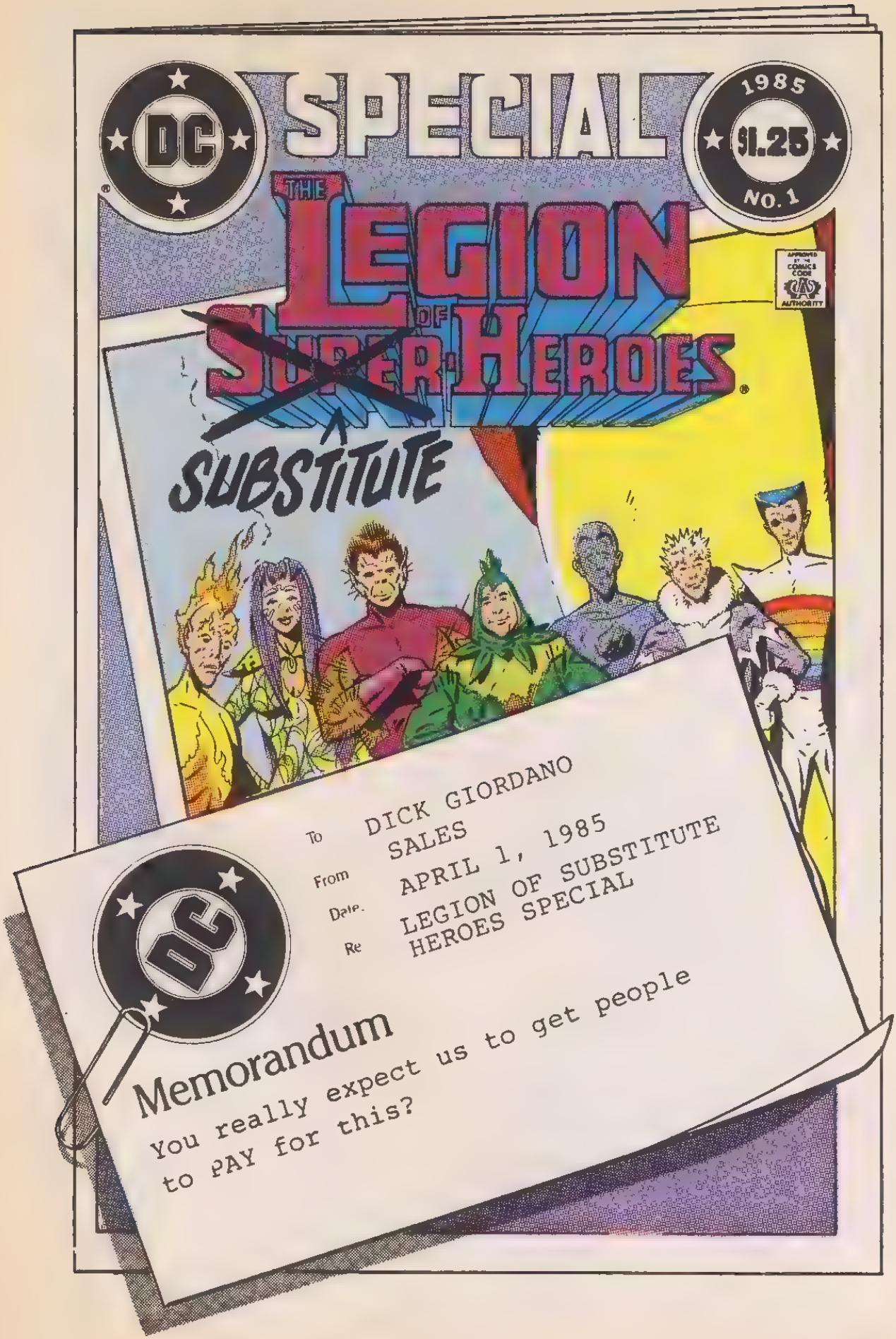
I'M NOT KIDDING AROUND, MISTER!
YOU JUST MIGHT FIND YOURSELF IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!
SKREEK
YEEEESH,!! WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?
DID THAT DARN CAT GET CAUGHT IN THE TRASH COMPACTER AGAIN?!
IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, YOU HAVE TO BE RAZOR-SHARP. THE DAY IS WON BY THE WAKEFUL AND THE ALERT!
WHAM!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY SURPRISE
OH, NO! CHIEF DETECTIVE DRISCOLL!!
WANTED: CLEAN-UP WOMAN TO COME IN, ONE LARGE PANEL TO BE CLEANED, SOME HEAVY LIFTING, GENEROUS PAY, AND GOOD BENEFITS. WRITE, BOX 12A, AND ENCLOSE RÉSUMÉ AND REFERENCES.
MEANWHILE..
(HASN'T MOVED)
AND THEN THERE'S ALWAYS AN ELEMENT OF LUCK THAT'S INVOLVED...

...WEANWHILE...
WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A GIANT FEMALE KOALA BEAR COSTUME?
YOU WANT THE BLONDE, THE BRUNETTE, OR THE REDHEAD?
LIGHT DOWN
...KLTPZYXM
...KLTPZYXM*
*ALLOW ME TO APOLOGIZE FOR JOHN COSTANZA, WHO HAS HAD ONE TOO MANY YOO-HOOS.--- JULIE
I HAVE HAVE NOT!
--JOHN
YOO HOO!*
*SEE?-- JULIE
14
HI, SAILOR! NEW IN TOWN?
HOW'D YOU LIKE A TOUR OF THE CITY?
WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE WITH YOUR TONGUE HANGING OUT!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE A CHANCE LIKE THIS AGAIN!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! YOU ONLY GO AROUND ONCE, BIG BOY...
...MIGHT AS WELL GRAB ALL THE GUSTO, RIGHT?
GULP
15


AAAAAAA
SPLASH
YUCK
I'M BEING DIGESTED
GURGLE GURGLE GURGLE
HUH?
WHAT WAS THAT?
MUST'VE BEEN THE BEAR'S STOMACH GURGLING.
NO, THAT WAS MY STOMACH GURGLING!
AHH!
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M DR BAGEL. I WAS DR. QUANTIS' ASSISTANT.
AND HE SWALLOWED YOU ANYWAY, HUH? PRETTY ROUGH.
OH I DON'T KNOW. AT LEAST HE DIDN'T FIRE ME.
YOU SEE, I CAME UP WITH AN ANTIDOTE TO THE SERUM THAT TRANSFORMED DR. QUANTIS. I WAS GOING TO USE IT TO CHANGE HIM BACK.
YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY FOR SOMEONE AND ALL THEY GIVE YOU BACK IS HEARTACHE
ISN'T THAT THE TRUTH? YOU JUST HAVE TO LEARN TO LOOK OUT FOR # 1.
BY THE WAY... WHERE AS THAT ANTIDOTE NOW?
THE FORMULA IS IN MY FILE CABINET BACK AT PADDYWAC UNDER "K" FOR "KOALA-OUT."
HEY!
WHO'S THAT?
OH. SORRY
THIS IS HONEY, MY WIFE.
SHE GOES EVERYWHERE WITH ME.
GEE, THAT'S NICE. IT'S SO UNUSUAL THESE DAYS TO FIND A COUPLE WHO ARE CLOSE.
WELL, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BE TELEPORTING ALONG NOW.
THIS HAS BEEN FUN. WE'LL HAVE TO DO THIS AGAIN SOON.
BYE!
POP!
THANK HEAVEN!
I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER LEAVE!

MEAN WHILE...
WOW, THIS PADDYWAC IS A BIG PLACE.
HOPE I CAN FIND THE CUTE-NESS LAB.
PADDYWAC
SHIRLEY TEMPLE MEMORIAL LABORATORY
THIS MUST BE IT
GREMLINS
LET'S SEE... "K": KAISER, KANGAROOS, KAZOOS, CHEMICALS..
CHEMICALS?! WHO DOES THEIR FILING?
HERE IT IS.
KOALA-OUT
PATENT PENDING DR GRAHAM BAGEL
GEE WHIZ!
THIS IS PRETTY COMPLICATED!
BUT I DO SLAP TOGETHER A NASTY GOOD GOULASH
I'LL JUST PRETEND THAT I'M IN THE KITCHEN.
VICTOR VON DOOM.. EAT YOUR HEART OUT!
KA-BLAM
THAT AIN'T THE ANTIDOTE FOR KOALAS...
...BUT IT SURE DID CLEAR MY STUFFED-UP SINUSES!!
HEY! I THINK THIS'LL DO IT--
KABLAM
NOPE. JUST NITRO-GLYCERIN.
HOW ABOUT THIS..?
H-BOMB!
DOGGONE IT!
11

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING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SUBSTITUTE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
To DICK GIORDANO
From SALES
Date. APRIL 1, 1985
Re LEGION OF SUBSTITUTE HEROES SPECIAL
Memorandum
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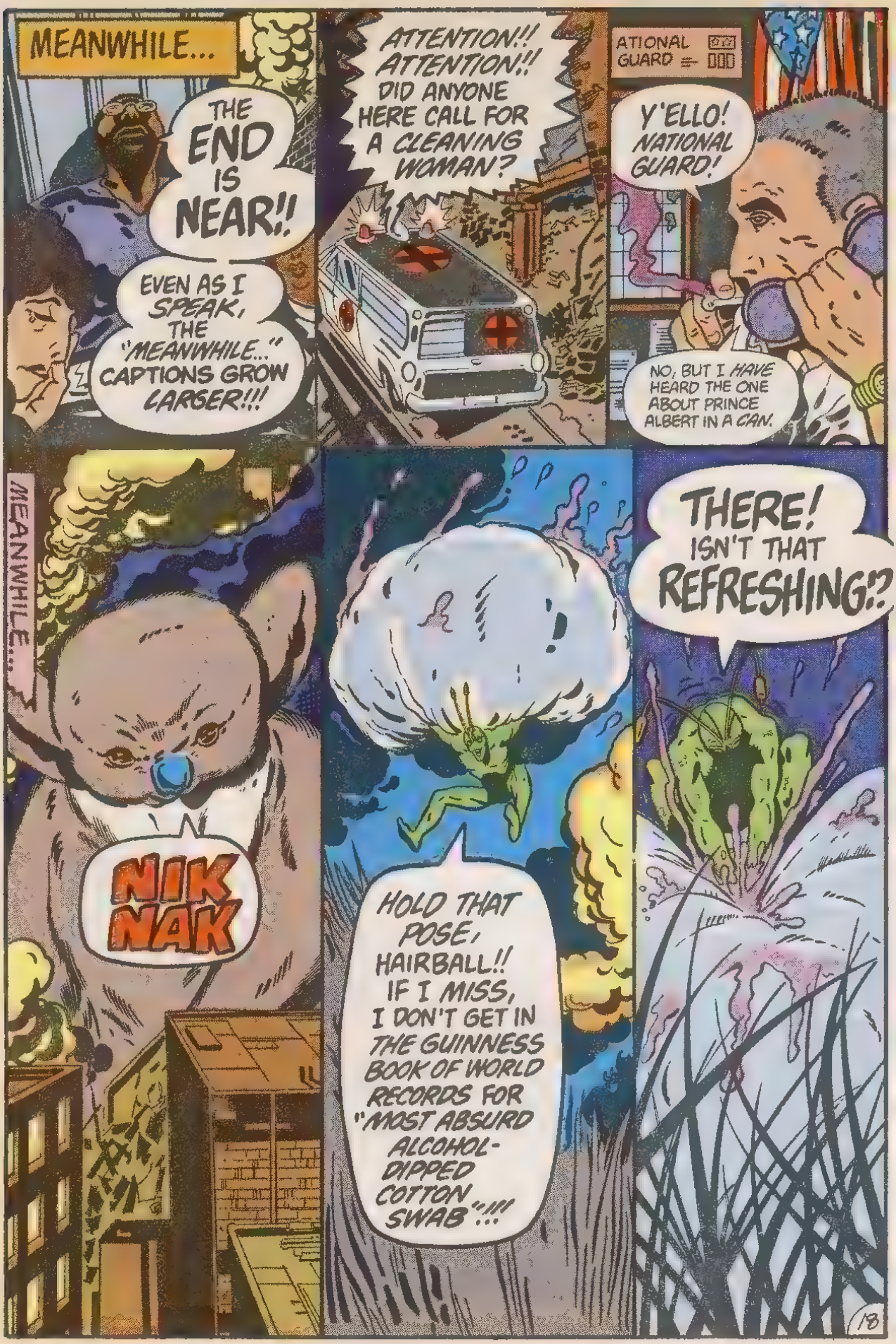
MEANWHILE...
THE END IS NEAR!!
EVEN AS I SPEAK, THE "MEANWHILE..." CAPTIONS GROW LARGER!!!
ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!! DID ANYONE HERE CALL FOR A CLEANING WOMAN?
ATIONAL GUARD
Y'ELLO! NATIONAL GUARD!
NO, BUT I HAVE HEARD THE ONE ABOUT PRINCE ALBERT IN A CAN.
MEANWHILE...
NIK NAK
HOLD THAT POSE, HAIRBALL!! IF I MISS, I DON'T GET IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS FOR "MOST ABSURD ALCOHOL-DIPPED COTTON SWAB"!!!
THERE! ISN'T THAT REFRESHING!?
18

HELLO. THIS IS WEDGE FAIRWAY BACK ON THE EIGHTEENTH HOLE OF THIS THIRD ROUND OF GOLF ACTION...
IF YOU WOULD LOWER YOUR VOICE, SIR... THE LEADER IS ABOUT TO MAKE A RATHER DELICATE...
OOHH, NO, YOU DON'T! GET OUT OF THIS BOOK!!
YEAH, WELL I'M STILL THE EDITOR OF THIS COMIC BOOK, IN CASE ANYBODY CARES.
AND I SAY GIANT KOALAS DON'T PLAY GOLF!
SSSHHHHH
THAT'S IT!!
KEITH!!!
FLEMING!!

MEANWHILE...
?
HEY, YOU!! HOLD STILL!!
THIS IS GOING TO STING FOR A MINUTE.
NIK NAK
AW, QUIT YER CRYING! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET!!
OUCH NAK!

NIK...
NAK?
NIK!
NAK!
NIK NAK!!
DON'T TELL ME NO "NIK NAK" JIVE, FUZZY WUZZY!
FUZZY.. WHO?
WHERE AM I?
WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING?
WHAT... IS THIS... TASTE IN MY MOUTH?
FOUR!
TAIWAN
KRASH
TAP
WHAT A ROUND OF GOLF! THE GIANT KOALA HAS CLOSED WITH A 281, WELL UNDER PAR FOR THE THREE--
ALL RIGHT! I WARNED YOU!!
MR. SCHWARTZ!! DEFACING A DEFENSELESS CARTOON CHARACTER IS THE LOWEST FORM OF HUMOR.
HEE YAH HAA HA HAA
21

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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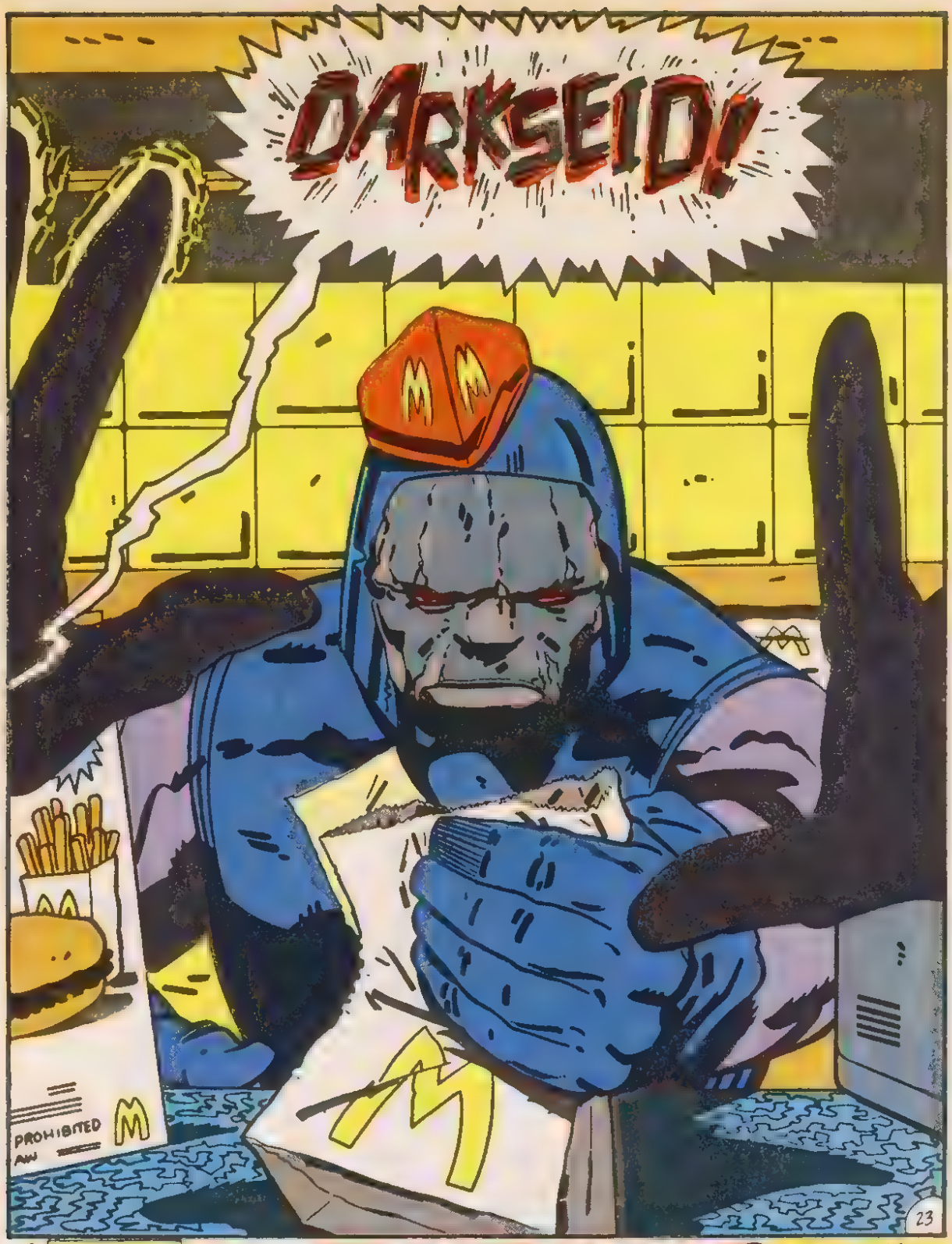
"METROPOLIS.
"THESE ARE ITS STREETS.
"AND ITS PEOPLE--ON ANY GIVEN DAY YOU CAN COUNT UP TO A MILLION OF THEM."
OVER MILLION SERVED
YOU'RE KIDDING
YOU WANT TWO BIG MACS.
...AND HOLD THE BEEF. YOU'VE GOT IT.
"EACH ONE HAS A STORY TO TELL."
CEE--RIPES! THEY SAID I COULD HAVE IT MY WAY.
WAITAMINUTE! MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE STUCK AROUND UNTIL THE PHOTOGRAPHERS ARRIVED...
...GLOMMED SOME OF THE GLORY!
WHAT AM I THINKING? I'M NOT IN THIS FOR THE GLORY. THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO SAVE LIVES AND UPHOLD JUSTICE!
AND IF I CAN MAKE THE ODD BUCK IN THE PROCESS...
...SO BE IT IT!
HERE'S YOUR ORDER, SIR
NO!
NOT YOU!



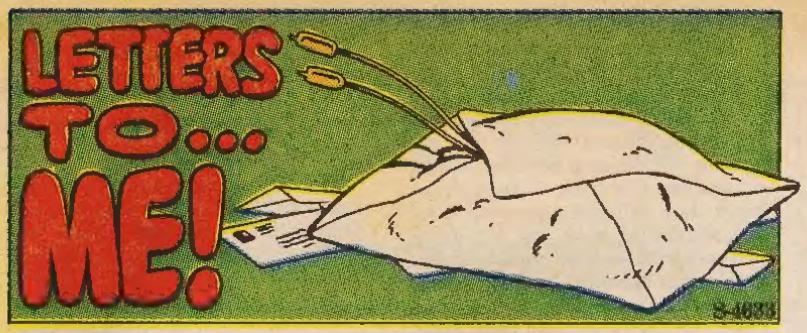
NEXT: POSTPONED FROM THIS ISSUE ➡

WHEN TITANS CLASH!!!

THE STORY YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

MC CREDITS

KEITH "THIS ORDER TO GO" GIFFEN	ROBERT LOREN "LARGE FRIES" FLEMING	BOB "BIG MAC" OKSNER	TONY "LETTUCE AND TOMATO" TOLLIN	JOHN "SMALL COKE" COSTANZA	JULIUS "SPECIAL SAUCE" SCHWARTZ
PLOTS & PENCILS	BALLOONS	INKS	COLORS	LETTERS	EDITS



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New York, NY 10103

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Bob Rozakis, Production Manager
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Bruce Bristow, Marketing Director
Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer

I love to get mail. I wait for it on my porch. When the mailman is half an hour late, I kick my dog. When he's an hour late, I go to his house and kick his *dog. I hate Sundays and Legal Holidays. I would be willing to work straight through if I could only get mail every day of the year. Sometimes the mailman goes right past my box, and there is no mail for me. I know in my heart that he was too lazy to sort it.*

I've heard that there used to be two *deliveries of mail each day. This is a sign that the world is going to the dogs. My mail comes late in the afternoon. It used to come early, but the hour of its arrival has gradually become later and later. I'm worried that it will come so late one day that it will be the day after and I'll have missed delivery on a day that's not Sunday or a Legal Holiday. I can't eat my lunch until the mail comes.*

I'm not fussy about mail, I like all kinds. Bank statements. The cable television bill. Junk mail. I like to receive the Publishers' Clearing House envelope. Some days I'll get nothing but the Congressional Report and be as happy as a clam. I'd just like to know one thing: *How is it that everybody else gets their copies of the* Comics Buyer's Guide *on* Monday *and I don't get mine until* Friday *sometimes?? Is* that *why I pay taxes??*

In order to get mail for this issue, I mailed photocopies of my first smash-hit-phenomenally-best-selling-royalty-bonanza issue to a group of prominent fanboys. I chose only the finest letterhacks, the crème de la crème, so as to create a sort of Classic Letter Column, one that would reflect the very best that comic fandom had to offer. I asked for the most articulate comments, the most perceptive criticisms, a sort of cerebral celebration.

Here's what I got.

AMBUSH BUG
Super Bowl Sunday, 1985
(NO MAIL)

P.S. Tomorrow is a Legal Holiday. I cannot believe that the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. would have wanted me to miss my mail delivery.

*****

I liked AMBUSH BUG #1 on many levels. The abrupt, senseless death of *Cheeks* and his moving funeral aroused feelings in me that I have not felt since I last saw Fellini's *The Seventh Seal,* yet the humor elsewhere in the comic brought back fond memories of the gaiety of Bergman's *8½.* I also felt you performed an invaluable service for comic book readers all over the world by giving us a look at the oft-mentioned but seldom seen *Super-Hero Handbook.*

And the characterization of our hero, *Ambush Bug!* On the surface, a naive simpleton, but underneath a raging Everyman who so superbly personifies the immortal words of Jean-Paul Sartre, "Life's tough!" After this, comics will never again dare to descend to the level of mere reading material.

KIM METZGER
Staff Editor, *The Comics Buyer's Guide*
700 East State St.
Iola, WI 54990

You talk a good game, mister, but it's Sunday *now and I* still *haven't gotten last week's* Buyer's Guide!

*****

Page 1: AAARGGHH! My comic books! No, no, no! Not that!

Page 4: Hey, *Cheeks the Toy Wonder* is a great new character.

Page 5: Hey, no fair! You said in the first issue of WHO'S WHO, *no* shorts, *no* cape, and *no* chest symbol. Liar, liar, pants on fire.

Pages 6&7: Ronnie gets to sponsor his own comic? Must be jealous of Nancy's TEEN TITANS drug books.

Page 11: *Gasp!* An "Injury to the Eye Panel!" The Spirit of Wertham is gonna rise up an' getcha!

Page 14: Oh, no! *Cheeks* has just got to get out!

Page 19: Oh, boy! *Super Turtle!* Versus the Hembeck of Doom! Who do we get next? *Ambush Bug* and Cap's Hobby Hints?

Page 22: Alas, *Cheeks,* we hardly knew ye. And now the little cabbage-head is cole slaw. Croaked. Wasted. Bought the farm. Bit the big one. Kaput. Scragged. Dancing on the head of a pin. Hosed. The big sleep. (You're right. Those euphemisms *are* comforting.)

Page 23: DARKSEID!?! Oh, wow! But hold it! Waitaminnit! Was *Darkseid* married a *third* time? Even if he wasn't, gods do what gods do, don't they? Is it—is it possible? Could it be? Could the ruler of Apokolips, the God of Ultimate Evil, be your long-lost DADDY DEAREST?!

After all, *Darkseid* has this thing about electronics. Maybe your mommy, the TV set, was a—a—a *Mother Box!* (She couldn't have been a Boob Tube 'cause L'il Irwin was a bottle baby.)

JOHN HENRY SAIN
2251 Kings Highway
Medford, OR 97501

Yes, Darkseid is my father. And for coming up with an origin that is at least as interesting, and as true, as all of my others, you've just won three jars of Darkseid Brand Facial Cream and an original lithograph of the Anti-Life Equation!

BOOOOOOOOM!!

*****

As much as I have enjoyed the A.B. short stories so far, I had my doubts that the bizarre, rapid-fire humor could be sustained in a regular book-length format without suffering. "Hahahahaha Wipeout!" didn't dispel those doubts (only the rest of the mini-series will—I hope—do that). But I *can* say in all honesty that I enjoyed the heck out of all 23 pages of the first issue.

The irreverent satire of comic book cliches (and of life in general) started on that glorious splash page and didn't stop until the surprising (understatement of 1984) final page. Unless I want to take up half-a-dozen sides of paper detailing everything that was good about "Hahahahaha Wipeout!" I'd better just pick out my favorite sequences. Well, I've already mentioned the splash page, but I would like to mention that Elaine (my wife) gave me a wry smile when I read out the captions. My long-suffering missus, I think, found more truth than humor in there. I loved the telephone sound-effect gag, but the "hit a homer" line was truly hilarious. First prize, however, must go to page 14 and the "explosive" punchline. I'm still laughing at that one. (Lord, it hurts!)

The one-page gags, I think, might make all the difference between success and failure for the series. These were all good, although the "Late Night with David Letterman" one meant nothing to me, not surprisingly. I was delighted to see *Super Turtle* again after all these years. How long has it been? Is it too late to

request a *Super Turtle-Ambush Bug* team-up for real?

I think I've gone on long enough. If I haven't convinced you yet that I *love* AMBUSH BUG #1, I never will. I'm looking forward to seeing the cover and Anthony Tollin's coloring (not to mention "stat panel 2" on page 12!). Yes, folks, *Ambush Bug* is a winner. You've well and truly bugged me. (Oh, and give my regards to *Ambush Bug's* "Aunt Enna"—antenna—for me, will you?)

DALE COE
41 Whitecross Rd.
Warrington, Cheshire
WA5 1LR England

This brings up something I've been meaning to discuss with all the readership. The brand of humor that we use in AMBUSH BUG is a lot more difficult than it looks. We practice long hours to get it just right and even though we're all seasoned professionals here, accidents do happen. So be warned: DO NOT TRY ANY OF THIS HUMOR AT HOME ON YOUR OWN! You can see what happened when Dale tried it. He's a very lucky boy to have escaped with his life!

*****

In answer to the question of whether or not this comic is a successful addition to its genre, my response would be affirmative, but with reservations. First, there were some very amusing parts and, more specifically, some well-placed puns that drew more than a laugh or two. Unfortunately, most of the situations did not. For example, the terrorist's willingness to sacrifice his grandmother bordered much too closely on the tasteless. Even the art had good and bad points. Mr. Giffen's recently adopted experimental style seemed to work much better on this strip than on some of the straight super-hero material he has turned out recently. The story-telling was very good; however, some of the characters were simply ugly, being both poorly drawn and primitive looking. Giffen seems to be drawing from a totally new set of artists for his inspiration, these being perhaps the post-impressionist French painters. This makes his new work always interesting to look at, though not always pleasing. Finally, the pacing of the story, though slightly frenetic, worked well before the "free insert," which unfortunately destroyed the flow of the story as far as I am concerned. This section would have been better placed at the end of the story.

Overall, my final opinion of the story is that it succeeded on many levels, although there were some major flaws. It was obviously a sincere and respectable effort that left the promise of better things to come.

STUART ROCKAFELLOW
23819 Wilmarth
Farmington, MI 48024

Stuart, who died and made you boss?

Without wanting to swell a certain bug's head, I can unequivocally state that the AMBUSH BUG mini-series will be a huge success! The fact that the masterful Keith Giffen is providing the plot and pencils for his creation will cause many a fan to run out and buy this book. To their enjoyment, they will discover a fun-filled and wonderful book full of all the zaniness that we have come to expect from Irwin Schwab. The sight gags and puns are ever so well-placed and timed, and while some of them rightfully deserved groans, it was still a "laugh-a-panel" experience. As a first issue, even for a mini-series, "Hahahahaha Wipeout!" was more laid back and slower paced than the usual "attack-the-reader-with-everything-so-he-will-become-too-enmeshed-in-the-book-to-miss-the-next-issue" syndrome. *Ambush Bug* was simply *Ambush Bug* and that, really, is all you need in order to keep the readers coming back.

As to the story (yes, believe it or not, there *was* some kind of story in there among the gags), it was also novel in that Keith and Robert took on the no-no subject of political philosophy. The same may also be said for the very light attitude displayed towards terrorism, and while we all mourn *Cheeks'* death, terrorism is no laughing matter. The "free insert" probably came at the right time, because after laughing through it, who could remember what the story was about?!

As to the final panel, I don't know whether to take it as the splash page, or if you people are really serious about *Darkseid!* Either way, you can bet that I will be awaiting the next issue!

KENT A. PHENIS
1321 North Meridian St., Apt. 913
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Listen, Kent, I'll be the first one to stand up and condemn terrorism. But to be completely fair, it hasn't ever affected my mail delivery, so it has to take a low priority for now.

*****

This is the thanks I get. I've consistently written nice things about you to your editor, so I'm one of the prize suckers who gets an advance copy of AMBUSH BUG #1.

I give you this joke:

1st man: Where do all the little bugs go in the wintertime?

2nd man: Search me.

1st man: No, thanks, I just wondered.

CHARLES D. BROWN
39 Stockton St.
Brentwood, NY 11717

Hey, wait a minute! I think that joke violates my continuity!

*****

NEXT ISSUE: THE AMBUSH BUG HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE!

Our main story is entitled "The Continuity Game" and features such golden stars of yesteryear as **Egg Fu, Super Turtle, The Green Team, Ace the Bathound, Mopee,** *the* **Inferior Five,** *and* **Julie Schwartz!** *Also a special feature:* **THE AMBUSH BUG PASSIVITY BOOK,** *which includes a look at* **Ambush Bug** *as he appears around the world, as drawn by other artists and even an instructional page on how* **you** *can draw the* **Bug!** *Then there's "How to Draw Comic Books, Part 12," the first in a series of eleven, and we've even commissioned Fred Hembeck to write and pencil his very own 1-page Bug tale! All this makes* **AMBUSH BUG** *#3 the kind of comic that would be great to receive in the mail! If they don't decide to make Lent a Legal Holiday!*

GUEST MEANWHILE...

Dear Mr. Giordano,

The comics industry often seems to me to lack a sense of community. People in the various comic companies (and their fans) seem to delight in sniping at each other, whether in good-natured banter or more mean-spirited criticism. The latter bothers me; partly it's simple sportsmanship—one hates to see players or fans belittling another team simply because they ought to show more class—but it's more than that.

It seems to me short-sighted for comics companies and their readers to see themselves as engaged in a cut-throat competition with other companies, in which anything that hurts the other side helps them. I don't believe that's the case, for several reasons:

First, I don't think economic competition between comic companies is really significant. I have no statistics to support my view, but based on the people I see, I think that comic-buying, whether a mother buying for an eight-year-old or a thirty-year-old buying for himself, is elastic: if there are more good comics, then people buy more comics. People don't buy **FANTASTIC FOUR** at the expense of **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**, they buy both.

Nor do I think that the public generally attaches values to particular companies. People buy good **DC** comics because they are good, not because they're **DC**. And while a good **DC** comic may lure readers into buying another **DC** comic once or twice, if that comic isn't good they won't continue buying it. The apparent rivalry between **DC** and Marvel (or any other company) exists more in insiders' eyes than in reality: very few people will refuse to buy a good comic from the company that they consider the lesser one, any more than they'll buy a bad comic out of simple loyalty to the publisher.

The real competition a comics company faces is not with other comics companies but with other products: records, movies, video games, etc. And in this competition the comics industry stands together. Most sales outlets don't stock only Marvel or only **DC** comics—they stock both. If a person buys a comic and likes it, he or she is more likely to buy other comics, and not just of that company's. People reading **ALPHA FLIGHT** don't say "Gosh, that's a good Marvel comic," they say, "That's a good comic." The next comic they buy may be **SWAMP THING** or **AMERICAN FLAGG!**, but it will be a comic, not a record or video game. Thus, the success of **ALPHA FLIGHT** helps not only Marvel but also **DC** and First, because in the long run it increases sales of all good comics. It doesn't help bad comics—nothing can make someone regularly buy a comic he or she doesn't like; but as long as a company produces some good comics it will benefit from the existence of all other good comics.

Thus it's distressing to hear **DC** staffers put down **X-MEN**, a fine comic that deserves its success, because it's short-sighted. It's just as distressing and short-sighted to hear Marvel fans pan **TEEN TITANS** as an **X-MEN** take-off; it isn't, but even if it were, it's still a fine comic. It's almost laughable that all of these people who claim to love comics spend so much time putting down comics. One can like Marvel comics without disliking **DC** and vice versa; blanket criticism simply reflects on the prejudiced critic.

Obviously, this isn't directed to you or most comics pros; many comics people, of which you are the most notable, are refreshingly conscious of the interests of the comics medium as a whole, free with due praise and leery of mean-spirited niggling. It's directed more towards some fans and staffers of both companies whose attitudes are less constructive. Loyalty to a company that produces comics one likes is both natural and praiseworthy, but it needn't translate into blanket rejection of other companies, their people, and their products. I don't know of any comics company that produces no good comics, nor any that produces no bad ones; however, I think it's time for comics readers and creators alike to realize that there is such a thing as the comic medium's interest, an interest that is not served by pettiness and spite. A good comic, no matter who produces it, benefits everyone who creates, sells, or reads comics.

Thanks for listening.

Gayden Wren
52 Willow Street
Garden City, NY 11530

DC CHECK LIST

ON SALE THE WEEK OF APRIL 25

☐ **Tales of the Legion 325:** Do only five beings make up the Dark Circle, the deadliest menace in the galaxy?
☐ **Action Comics 569:** Two stories, including Lois Lane turned monster!
☐ **Detective Comics 552:** Batman and Green Arrow in two terrific stories!
☐ **World's Finest Comics 317:** Batman and Superman versus Cheapjack for the life of a mobster's daughter!
☐ **All-Star Squadron 47:** The origin of Dr. Fate!
☐ **Arion 33:** The Magic Odyssey concludes with the fight to the death against Dark Majistra!
☐ **Ambush Bug 2:** An experiment with *a cute* koala bear turns into an *acute* problem!

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